



Liturgy for Sunday, April 11, 2021

Welcome (Bart Box)

Building Notes:

- **Face Coverings:** After reviewing the state-wide mask order, **we have decided to continue requiring the wearing of facial coverings by all adults during entering and exiting the building and while singing. We also recommend the wearing of facial coverings during the entirety of the service.** The current statewide ordinance encourages masks for kids over six years old. We understand that this may be difficult for some kids, so we are leaving this up to each parent as to when to allow their own kids to remove their masks once they are seated. **We would recommend kids over six to wear masks during entrance, exit, singing, and any other time they are not in their seats.** This guidance will be reviewed as we have more information and direction from the governor or local officials.

Call to Worship

¹*"Come, let us return to the LORD;
for he has torn us, that he may heal us;
he has struck us down, and he will bind us up.*

²*After two days he will revive us;
on the third day he will raise us up,
that we may live before him.*

³*Let us know; let us press on to know the LORD;
his going out is sure as the dawn;
he will come to us as the showers,
as the spring rains that water the earth."*

(Hosea 6:1-3)

Prayer of Adoration and Invocation

God's Greeting and Mutual Greetings

Leader: "The Lord be with you!"



All: "And also with you!"

Leader: "Lift up your hearts."

All: "We lift them to the Lord."

Leader: "Let us give thanks to the Lord our God."

All: "It is right to give him thanks and praise."

Songs

1) "The Love of God"

2) "O Love that Will Not Let Me Go"

Prayer of Confession & Assurance of Pardon (Nick Murray)

²When the LORD began to speak through Hosea, the LORD said to him, "Go, take to yourself an adulterous wife and children of unfaithfulness, because the land is guilty of the vilest adultery in departing from the LORD." (Hosea 1:2)

*⁸How can I give you up, O Ephraim?
How can I hand you over, O Israel?
How can I make you like Admah?
How can I treat you like Zeboiim?
My heart recoils within me;
my compassion grows warm and tender.
⁹I will not execute my burning anger;
I will not again destroy Ephraim;
for I am God and not a man,
the Holy One in your midst,
and I will not come in wrath. (Hosea 11:8-9)*

Songs

3) "Come Thou Fount of Every Blessing"



4) "What a Beautiful Name?"

Prayer of Illumination (Will Mitchell)



Words of Life: Love

Hosea

Love that is jealous

- Hosea was a prophet to Israel during the 8th century B.C., a period of significant moral decline.

There is no faithfulness or steadfast love, and no knowledge of God in the land; ² there is swearing, lying, murder, stealing, and committing adultery; they break all bounds, and bloodshed follows bloodshed. (4:1-2)

The more they increased, the more they sinned against me. (4:7)

They made kings, but not through me. They set up princes, but I knew it not. With their silver and gold they made idols for their own destruction. ⁵ I have spurned your calf, O Samaria. My anger burns against them. How long will they be incapable of innocence? ⁶ For it is from Israel; a craftsman made it; it is not God. The calf of Samaria shall be broken to pieces. (8:4-6)

- The book of Hosea is divided in two parts: prophetic deeds (chaps. 1-3) & prophetic words (chaps. 4-14).
- The story of Hosea and Gomer unfolds in the first 3 chapters.

- Hosea was called to marry an unfaithful woman. (Hosea 1)

“Go, take to yourself a wife of whoredom and have children of whoredom, for the land commits great whoredom by forsaking the Lord.” (Hosea 1:2)

- Even further, Hosea was called to redeem his unfaithful wife from slavery. (Hosea 3)

And the Lord said to me, “Go again, love a woman who is loved by another man and is an adulteress.” (Hosea 3:1)

- The love of God is a jealous love, allowing no competitors or rivals. (2:1-13)
 - God is speaking like spouse who has experienced betrayal.
 - Hosea uses the language of wounding, anger, sadness, and heartbreak.

- Application:

- God desires exclusive and deep intimacy with us.

And do not grieve the Holy Spirit of God, by whom you were sealed for the day of redemption. (Ephesians 4:30)

I know you are enduring patiently and bearing up for my name’s sake, and you have not grown weary. ⁴ But I have this against you, that you have abandoned the love you had at first. (Revelation 2:3-4)

- Are we giving time and attention to our relationship with the Lord?

Sow for yourselves righteousness; reap steadfast love; break up your fallow ground, for it is the time to seek the Lord, that he may come and rain righteousness upon you. (10:12)

Love that is extravagant

- Hosea was called to love at great personal cost to himself.
 - Hosea bore the extreme indignity of taking an unfaithful wife and having child of unfaithfulness.
 - Hosea bore even greater disgrace in redeeming Gomer.
- God's love demonstrates this sort of mercy, grace, and intentionality.

For while we were still weak, at the right time Christ died for the ungodly. ⁷ For one will scarcely die for a righteous person—though perhaps for a good person one would dare even to die— ⁸ but God shows his love for us in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us. (Romans 5:6-8)

- Do you have this understanding of God as a God of great and extravagant love, even for you?

God has no pleasure in the destruction or calamity of persons or people. He had rather they should turn and continue in peace He is well-pleased if they forsake their evil ways, that he may not have occasion to execute his wrath upon them. He is a God that delights in mercy, and judgment is his strange work. (Jonathan Edwards)

How can I give you up, O Ephraim? How can I hand you over, O Israel?... My heart recoils within me; my compassion grows warm and tender. ⁹ I will not execute my burning anger; I will not again destroy Ephraim; for I am God and not a man, the Holy One in your midst, and I will not come in wrath. (11:8-9)

Love that is wise

- God's love can feel hard at times. (4:7, 9, 10; 5:14; 8:7; 10:2; 13:3)
- But we should remember that God's love is always laced with divine wisdom.

And I said to her, "You must dwell as mine for many days. You shall not play the whore, or belong to another man; so will I also be to you." ⁴ For the children of Israel shall dwell many days without king or prince, without sacrifice or pillar, without ephod or household gods. ⁵ Afterward the children of Israel shall return and seek the Lord their God, and David their king, and they shall come in fear to the Lord and to his goodness in the latter days. (Hosea 3:3-5)

Therefore I will hedge up her way with thorns, and I will build a wall against her, so that she cannot find her paths. ⁷ She shall pursue her lovers but not overtake them, and she shall seek them but shall not find them. Then she shall say, 'I will go and return to my first husband, for it was better for me than now.' (Hosea 2:6-7)

There is a way that seems right to a man, but its end is the way to death. (Proverbs 14:12)

Love that is life-giving

- A key word in the book is the word "return", a word indicating repentance and change of ways.
- Repentance can feel like death, but the end result is always life.
- Indeed, God loves to bring life from death!

After two days he will revive us; on the third day he will raise us up, that we may live before him. (6:2)

The Lord's Supper

²⁶Now as they were eating, Jesus took bread, and after blessing it broke it and gave it to the disciples, and said, "Take, eat; this is my body." ²⁷And he took a cup, and when he had given thanks he gave it to them, saying, "Drink of it, all of you, ²⁸for this is my blood of the covenant, which is poured out for many for the forgiveness of sins. ²⁹I tell you I will not drink again of this fruit of the vine until that day when I drink it new with you in my Father's kingdom." (Matthew 26:26-29)

Song

5) "There Is a Fountain"

Offering

⁹For you know the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, that though he was rich, yet for your sake he became poor, so that you by his poverty might become rich. (2 Corinthians 8:9)

⁷Each one must give as he has decided in his heart, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver. ⁸And God is able to make all grace abound to you, so that having all sufficiency in all things at all times, you may abound in every good work. (2 Corinthians 9:7-8)

Prayer of Intercession (Sam Price)

For Our Church

For our church, that we would grow in greater faithfulness to God and his calling for us as a body and as individuals that make up this body, that we would persevere in the works that he has prepared in advance for us to do, and that we would not grow weary in doing good.

For Our City

For Christ the King Anglican Church, pastor Michael Novotney, their elders, staff, and congregation.

For Our Nation

For the abolition of human trafficking in our country, that God would intervene and break the power of the wicked perpetrators of these actions, that the full measure of justice would



be brought upon those guilty of these crimes, and that victims would be rescued and rehabilitated to the dignity they deserve as God's image bearers.

For Our World

For the nation of Tanzania: that healthy churches in the country would grow and flourish and multiply; that the poorest and neediest citizens of Tanzania would receive the provision that they need; and for those churches and organizations that are working to serve the overlooked, the marginalized, and the forgotten.

"Our Father in heaven,
hallowed be your name.
Your kingdom come,
your will be done,
on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread,
and forgive us our debts,
as we also have forgiven our debtors.
And lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from evil.
For yours is the kingdom
and the power, and the glory,
forever and ever. Amen."

Benediction

*°Whoever is wise, let him understand these things;
whoever is discerning, let him know them;
for the ways of the LORD are right,
and the upright walk in them,
but transgressors stumble in them. (Hosea 14:9)*

Doxology

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow
Praise Him, all creatures here below
Praise Him above, ye heavenly hosts
Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost



What's Happening at Christ Fellowship...

Families Count

Families Count is a ministry of Lifeline Children's Services that gives local churches a platform to meet, mentor, and care for parents who are working to fulfill a court-ordered plan for reunification with their children out of foster care or to intervene with parents who are at risk of their children entering foster care. Classes will take place on Sundays from 4:00-7:00pm from April 11th through May 16th. An important volunteer training on will take place on Monday, March 29th from 6:30-8:30pm at the church building. Please email Nathan (nathanhcurrie@gmail.com) or Kim Currie (kimcurrie123@yahoo.com) if interested.

Women's Ministry with Prison Fellowship

Prison Fellowship will hold a prison ministry Hope Event on Saturday, April 10th from 1:00-3:00pm at the Birmingham Women's Work Release Prison. There will be worship and testimonies, and the event will be held outside the prison in the yard. This is a great opportunity to see what prison ministry looks like for those interested. Please contact Emily Herring (eeh@herring-group.com) if you have questions or are interested.

CFC Kids Camp — July 20-23

All current 3rd-5th graders are invited to join us at Student Life for Kids Camp July 20-23 at Shocco Springs! Cost for camp is \$269, with additional discounts for families with multiple kids.

Youth Camp – June 14-18

The student ministry will be attending Student Life Mission Camp at Lee University in Cleveland, TN from June 14-18. All students who have completed 6th-12th grade are welcome. Direct any questions to Billy Shepard at bshepard@cfcbirmingham.org.

Women's Discipleship Ministry

To participate in the CFC Women's discipleship and mentoring program, please email rein@cfcbirmingham.org. Plans for a formal kick-off event will be announced in early April.

Women's Book Studies

New book studies are scheduled to begin on Monday, April 5.

- *Lord, Teach Me to Study the Bible in 28 Days*, 7:30pm for one hour, 5 weeks, leader Janet Thorn.
- *A Place to Belong*, 8:00pm for one hour, 6 weeks, leader Rebekah Rein.

To register and find more information on each title, please visit the CFC Ladies' Facebook page or [email rrein@cfcbirmingham.org](mailto:rrein@cfcbirmingham.org). Both books are available on the book stall!

